

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON AND SENATORS BERNARD, LUNEAU,  
MORRIS, PEACOCK, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier and to encourage participation in commemorations on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has been preparing for the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier for several years; the society recently received congressional approval to strike a centennial coin for the occasion, and congress also authorized the secretary of defense to take appropriate action in observing the centennial as a historical event; and

WHEREAS, the American Rose Society has joined the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in preparation for the centennial of the Unknown Soldier; and

WHEREAS, the American Rose Society is a nonprofit organization whose mission includes rose horticultural education, research, preservation of rose varieties, and rose history; the society was established in Philadelphia in 1892, and its national headquarters and rose gardens have been in Shreveport since the early 1970s; next year, the society will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the gardens in Northwest Louisiana, where America's Rose Garden is open to the public and enjoyed year round by visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, across America and in France, preparations are being made to commemorate the centennial of the Unknown Soldier on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year; and

WHEREAS, the rose was designated as America's national floral emblem by the United States Senate and House of Representatives in an act signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier made the white rose its official flower and encourages planting, displaying, and ceremonially presenting the white rose at centennial ceremonies, commemorations, and reenactments; and

WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American Rose Society both recognize the power of roses as an effective representation of patriotism and all matters of the heart; and

WHEREAS, white roses played a prominent role in the selection of the World War I Unknown Soldier at Champagne-Chalon as a bouquet of white roses was laid upon the Unknown Soldier's casket to designate the coffin that would hold the body of America's Unknown Soldier; and

WHEREAS, France and its people remain intimately integrated in this state's history and culture; vestiges of the French culture are prominent and celebrated throughout the state, and French officials and French citizens also play an important role in preparing for the centennial commemorations; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's native son, Four-Star General Graves Blanchard Erskine of Columbia, Louisiana, assisted in the return of the Unknown Soldier to American shores in 1921; he served heroically in World War I, World War II, and beyond, and after his illustrious active duty military career, he served the U.S. Department of Defense until his retirement in 1961; and

WHEREAS, today we have the tremendous honor of joining the centennial commemoration and declaring, on Memorial Day, that 2021 is the "Year of the Unknown Soldier"; the centennial of America's Unknown Soldier will be commemorated across the great state of Louisiana on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2021, at 11:00 AM, when Americans will pledge to recognize our sacred duty to never forget and to honor the Unknown Soldier who represents the millions of Americans who fought and died for our liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, this Veterans Day shall also be a day to honor and remember Louisiana's great hero, General Graves Blanchard Erskine, who served our nation well and brought immense pride to both Louisiana and the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier; does hereby encourage the people of Louisiana to commemorate the centennial with the National Salute by the firing of the twenty-one gun salute, ringing of bells, observing two minutes of silence, or playing taps; does hereby encourage the attendance of Veterans' Day ceremonies, visitation of military cemeteries and memorials, and the honoring of the American Flag; and does hereby call Louisianians to dedicate special places in their gardens as "never forget" gardens, which will serve as living tributes to all of America's veterans and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and to the American Rose Society.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE